

Haggerty, Katie

From: Ann Colloton <collotonlaney@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 1:23 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: TONIKO COX
Subject: in support of HB 6848

My friend Toniko asked me to email her letter/testimony for her since she is having computer issues. But if you need to confirm who sent it, you can communicate with her directly at the email address above.

-Ann Colloton, on behalf of Toniko Cox

Toniko Cox

35 Theodore Napper Lane

Hartford, CT 06120

RE: IN SUPPORT OF HB 6848

I am writing to express my support for HB6848 that is currently under review by the legislature. To try to understand where to draw the line between love and hate can be extremely difficult. Throwing the complex nature of a domestic altercation into the mix of the relationship breaches that thin line. But to peacefully resolve a domestic situation requires the ability to de-escalate, protect all parties involved and allow due process to take place for a resolution within the relationship. Unfortunately the effectiveness of the current law related to domestic violence restraining orders needs to be modified in order to address an open access loop hole related to the possession of guns and/or ammunition in such cases.

In support of proposed legislation HB6848: Modification of Domestic Violence restraining order, I feel that as a proactive measure all firearms and/or ammunition should immediately surrendered in order to reduce the probability of making a volatile situation escalate into a tragedy.

I am a survivor of a domestic violence, and in one incident I was threatened with a firearm by my abuser after I had initiated a restraining order. The firearm at that time was in attempt to instill more fear, power, control and intimidation. The goal of the abuser was to stop me from going through with the restraining order and have all of the charges dropped, which he succeeded. My fear of retaliation or that additional harm was going to be

done, convinced me it was easier to drop the charges than to risk the chance of losing my life because the temporary restraining order was not completely understood, enforcement was limited and the process was lengthy. If it was a requirement for my abuser to surrender all firearms at the beginning of the situation, this would have made it easier to proceed with the process to end a bad situation sooner.

I am one of the lucky ones. Others are not. Statistics have shown that during the two week waiting period for a restraining order, there is a higher probability of additional violence from either party while awaiting for the permanent protective order through the courts. This modification to the law that would require the surrendering of firearms and ammunition within 1 day notice of an order being sought, will be a proactive measure to prevent a tragedy.

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